

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 14-24 are pending in this application. 1-11 and 14-24 have been rejected.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing, at paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101. Further at paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner deems the Applicant's arguments regarding previous rejections combining Gusack and Kessenich to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. The new grounds of rejection, addressed in detail below, do not rely upon Kessenich for the rejection of claim 1.

At paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claims 1-11 because the Examiner is not clear about the meaning of the phrase, "... associated with the parameter". The Applicant respectfully submits that the meaning of this phrase is clear in the complete context of the claim limitation, i.e.,

(ii) a parameter value comprising a second portion of the keyword, the parameter value representing a particular quantity associated with the parameter;

The term "associated with a parameter" is well defined throughout the specification, for example at paragraphs [0029] and [0030], and at paragraph [0053]. Further, the Applicant submits that the plain meaning of the term is well known to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

At paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,356,897 (Gusack) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,003,504 (Angus). The Applicant traverses this rejections. The Applicant agrees with the Examiner that Gusack does not explicitly teach a parameter value and representing a particular quantity associated with the parameter; wherein the parameter and the parameter value are associated with the data contained in the file storage system; and, retrieving the data in response to one or more search criteria associated with at least one of the parameter and the parameter value.

However, the Applicant does not agree that Angus supplies that which is missing from Gusack, nor does the Applicant agree that it is appropriate to combine Gusack with Angus. Gusack is directed to techniques for indexing data in a database. Angus is directed to a data processing system for storing and managing multiple data entries, where the data processing

system employs a data structure which allows the storage and management of a vast number of interrelated data entries, the interrelations of which change over time. Thus, Angus is concerned with storing data in a particular structure, and outputting data in a particular format. Angus is not concerned with using keywords to query the data structure. A person skilled in the art would not have looked to the storage and managing techniques taught in Angus to modify the indexing and retrieval techniques taught by Gusack. So a person skilled in the art would not have been motivated to combine Gusack with Angus as the Examiner suggests.

The Examiner asserts that the “parameter value representing a particular quantity associated with the parameter” element of claim 1 is taught by fig. 5 of Angus. However, a careful reading of Angus with respect to fig. 5 reveals that fig. 5 merely depicts a dataset stored in the data processing system, comprising fields for holding the data in accordance with a certain schema. (col. 7, lines 49-52). Fig. 5 does not include a parameter, but rather includes fields for holding numeric values (e.g., [f]ield 55 holds a numeric value representing the volume of the transaction; col. 8, lines 1-2), and pointers pointing to characteristics of the numeric value (e.g., field 56 holds a pointer pointing to the record holding details of the unit in which the volume is measured; col. 8, lines 2-4).

What is missing from Angus is the parameter itself, and any sort of association between the parameter and a parameter value. This is the type of association that occurs in a keyword used for retrieving data from a file storage system, and as mentioned previously, Angus is not concerned with techniques for data retrieval. In contrast, claim 1 is directed to use of a keyword to retrieve data, and so the keyword includes a parameter associated with a parameter value. Neither Gusack nor Angus teaches or suggests an association between a parameter value and a parameter, as explicitly required by claim 1, so for at least that reason claim 1 should be allowable. Since claims 2-11 depend from allowable claim 1, those claims should also be allowable.

At paragraph 4, the Examiner rejects claims 14-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gusack in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,292,802 (Kessenich). The Applicant has amended claim 14 to recite, “. . . each keyword having a parameter and an associated parameter value . . .” As the Applicant pointed out in the Response of January 8, 2007, a careful reading reveals that Kessenich is concerned with search parameters (e.g., col. 13, line 10) and how they relate to text documents stored in a database. A search of Kessenich, even beyond the text cited

by the Examiner, failed to find any teaching of a parameter value. Thus, Kessenich does not teach or suggest a parameter value, nor does Kessenich teach or suggest any combination of a parameter and parameter value to form a keyword, as claim 1 requires. Further, no combination of Gusack and Kessenich teaches or suggests a keyword as a combination of a parameter and a parameter value.

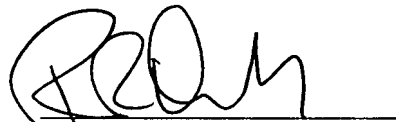
Neither Gusack nor Kessenich, nor any combination of these references teaches or suggests the limitation of a keyword that includes a parameter and an associated parameter value, as required by claim 14. The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 14 is improper and should be withdrawn. Since claims 15-24 depend from allowable claim 14, those claims should also be allowable.

Filed herewith is a Request for a Two-Month Extension of Time, which extends the statutory period for response to expire on September 3, 2007. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. No other fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this response, however the Commissioner is authorized to debit Deposit Account No. 08-0219 for any required fee necessary to maintain the pendency of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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